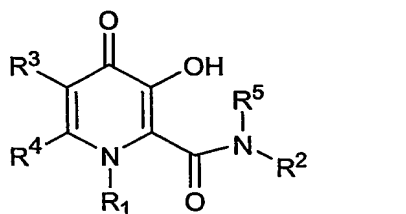


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CLAIMS:

1. A 3-hydroxypyridin-4-one compound of formula I:



10

wherein:

R¹ is X with the proviso that R² is Y;

or

R¹ is T with the proviso that R² is W;

or

15

R¹ is X with the proviso that R²R⁵N when taken together, form a heterocyclic ring selected from piperidinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl, wherein the group piperidinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl is either unsubstituted or substituted with one to three C₁ to C₆ alkyl groups;

20

X is C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl;

Y is selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₁ to C₆ alkyl and C₁ to C₆ alkyl monosubstituted with a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl;

T is C₁ to C₆ alkyl;

W is C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl;

25

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁ to C₆ alkyl;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁ to C₆ alkyl;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁ to C₆ alkyl; and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is X with the proviso that R² is Y.

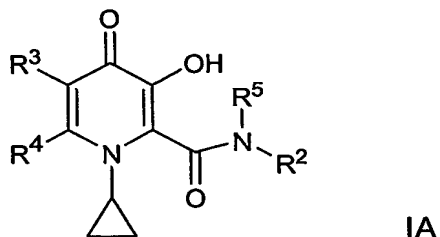
- 5 3. A compound of claim 2 wherein X is C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, Y is C₁ to C₆ alkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen or methyl.
- 10 4. A compound of claim 3 wherein X is cyclopropyl, Y is methyl, R³ is hydrogen, R⁴ is methyl and R⁵ is hydrogen, said compound is 1-cyclopropyl-3-hydroxy-6-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methylamide.
- 15 5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising 1-cyclopropyl-3-hydroxy-6-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methylamide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 20 6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 5 is which is adopted for oral administration.
- 25 7. A compound of claim 2 wherein X is C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, Y is C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen.
- 30 8. A compound of claim 7 wherein X is cyclopropyl, Y is cyclopropyl, R³ is hydrogen, R⁴ is methyl, said compound is *N*,1-dicyclopropyl-3-hydroxy-6-methyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydropyridine-2-carboxamide.
- 35 9. A compound of claim 3 wherein X is cyclopropyl, Y is methyl, R³ is hydrogen, R⁴ is methyl and R⁵ is methyl, said compound is 1-cyclopropyl-3-hydroxy-*N,N*,6-trimethyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydropyridine-2-carboxamide.
10. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is T with the proviso that R² is W.
11. A compound of claim 10 wherein T is C₁-C₆ alkyl and W is C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl.

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12. A compound of claim 11 wherein T is methyl, W is cyclopropyl, R³ is hydrogen, R⁴ is methyl and R⁵ is hydrogen, said compound is 3-hydroxy-1,6-dimethyl-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-pyridine-2-carboxylic acid cyclopropylamide.

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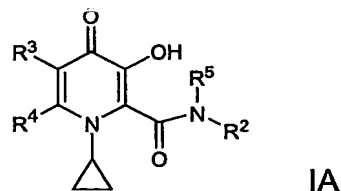
13. A 3-hydroxypyridin-4-one compound of formula IA:



wherein:

- R² is selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₁ to C₆ alkyl and C₁ to C₆ alkyl monosubstituted with a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl;
- R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁ to C₆ alkyl;
- R⁵R²N when taken together, form a heterocyclic ring selected from piperidinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl, wherein the group piperidinyl, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl is either
- unsubstituted or substituted with one to three C₁ to C₆ alkyl groups;
- R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁ to C₆ alkyl;
- and
- R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁ to C₆ alkyl.

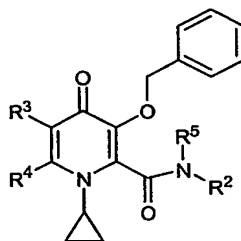
14. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula IA



wherein:

- R² is selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₁ to C₆ alkyl and C₁ to C₆ alkyl monosubstituted with a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl;

- 5 R^5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1 to C_6 alkyl;
 R^5R^2N when taken together, form a heterocyclic ring selected from
piperidiny, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl, wherein the group
piperidiny, morpholinyl, pyrrolidinyl or piperazinyl is either
unsubstituted or substituted with one to three C_1 to C_6 alkyl groups;
10 R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1 to C_6 alkyl;
 R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1 to C_6 alkyl;
which includes the step of deprotecting a benzyl group in a
hydrogenation reaction of a compound of the general formula of 3-
benzyloxypyridin-4-one, or its hydrochloride salt,



15

wherein R^2 , R^5 , R^5R^2N , R^3 , R^4 are as defined in claim 1.

15. The process of claim 14 wherein the hydrogenation reaction is effected
with palladium on charcoal or palladium hydroxide on charcoal and
20 hydrogen in an inert solvent selected from the group consisting of
methanol, ethanol and isopropanol.
16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to
claim 1 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.
- 25 17. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16, which is adopted
for oral administration.
18. Use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of
30 medicament in the treatment of a medical condition related to a toxic
concentration of iron.